

Valentine's
p. 5

Speech
p. 4

The Voice

Algona High School

Edited by: Brandee Hockett and Jackie Brunow

February 27, 2012

FFA Week

AJ Wagner

This week has been an interesting week for students at Algona High School. February 18-25 is National FFA Week. This week gives the rest of the public a chance to learn more about agriculture. National FFA Week originated in 1947. It was decided by the FFA Board of Directors to have the week of George Washington's birthday designated as National FFA Week.

On Monday, FFA members drove tractors to school and were allowed to park in the teacher's lot.

On Tuesday, FFA members wore their membership shirts and held the Labor Auction at night. The free will donation pancake feed started at 5 pm in the commons, and the labor auction started at 6pm. The labor auction sells of the FFA members to the highest bidders. Once sold, the FFA member must work for the

buyer for four hours. The money raised from the auction will go to the Katie Kofoot Memorial Fund for the sad tragedy of Katie Kofoot recently passing away.

On Wednesday, there was a farm toy show in the Ag room, where students displayed their toy tractors and semis. There was also a block scavenger hunt. Wooden blocks were hidden around the school and if you find a block, take it to Mr. MacVey and he'll give you a prize. Example prizes include two liters of pop, candy bars, and other goodies.

On Thursday, the Farm Bureau had a pizza party during the lunch periods for FFA members. The FFA members were allowed to join them in the Ag shop. Zach McKenna says, "The pizza party was a fun event. The pizza was amazing!" Also on Thursday was the

sub-District FFA Leadership contest where 13 students from the Algona FFA Chapter attended. They competed in different speaking events.

On Friday, they had the Aggie Olympics in the

ag shop. Events during the Aggie Olympics included competitions such as speed nail pounding and speed hay bale stacking.

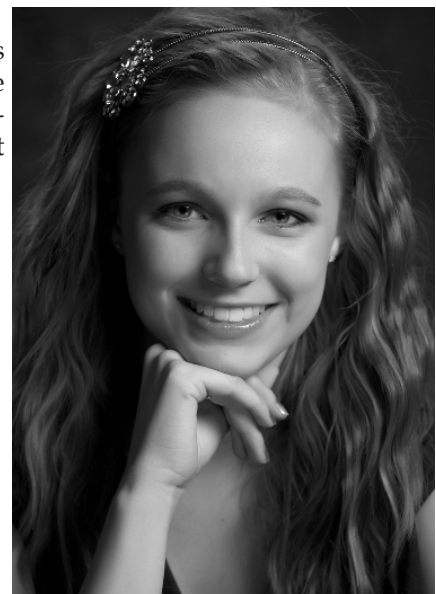
Senior Spotlight

Rachel Feuring

Briana Lynn Meyerink was born on November 3, 1993. Her parents are Donna and Brian Meyerink. Briana is a senior at Algona High School. She is involved in band, speech, drama, and Mock Trial. She also works at Good Samaritan and the YMCA. She likes Good Sam because, "I get to talk to the residents, and I like the YMCA because it's fun to play with the kids."

Briana's future plans are to attend Iowa State University for Interior Design. What she'll miss most

about high school is having her mom and dad do everything for her. And she's not looking forward to walking to class in the bad weather at Iowa State. Briana's favorite class is open campus because, "I get to do nothing but talk to my friend." Her favorite color is purple and favorite animal is a dog. When you see Briana next, be sure to tell her hi!



Movin' along

Jessica Mueller

On Friday, February 10, the Algona Bulldogs played Webster City at home, losing 40-48. Senior Samuel Lipps led with 15 points scored followed by senior Dylan Cink. Sam Lipps reached up for 9 rebounds while junior Cole Nielsen and junior Sawyer Frideres followed with six each.

On February 14, the Bulldogs played against Clear Lake, losing 66-70. Sawyer Frideres stole the ball 4 times, closely followed by Dylan Cink with 3. Dylan Cink led with 4 assists followed by Sam Curtis, then Samuel Lipps. Samuel Lipps scored 25 points for the Algona Bulldogs while Dylan Cink scored 14 points.

The Algona Bulldogs traveled to Storm Lake on Monday, February 20, for the first round of Districts. They played against the Storm Lake Tornados. They

Ballin'

Zach McKenna

The Algona Bulldogs girls' basketball team ended their season. They ended it in a tough game in the first round of the playoffs. They played against the 16-4 Spirit Lake Indians.

If you do not know much about the Indians, all you need to know is the name KJ Veldman. She is the leading scorer in the state. In the game she had 32 points of the 31-58 final. For the Bulldogs, Paige Yi and Tangy Wiseman had 7

put up a tough fight, but lost 73-65. Sam Lipps led in scoring with 21 points followed by Dylan Cink with 18.

The boys end their season with a 10-12 record. The team graduated seven seniors: Dylan Cink, Sam Lipps, Sam Curtis, Chris Grether, Nathan Simpson, Tyler Franzen, and manager Jace Taylor.



Left: Justin Raymond plays defense against Webster City.

State wrestling

Micah Lavrenz

The Algona Wrestling team had a great season this year. The results of the District tournament were Jake Adams 2nd, Austin Long 4th, Weston Shaw 2nd, and Nick Buchanan 4th. The top two in each weight class of the District tournament advanced to the State tournament. The Algona-NSK Wrestling team sent Jake Adams and Weston Shaw as qualifiers.

Jake Adams and Weston Shaw represented our school and community well at the State tournament. In order to receive a medal at the tournament, they must win at least two matches. The tournament is a 16 person bracket and the top 8 receive medals. Neither Jake or Weston received medals but

they both wrestled tough.

Jake had a tough bracket. He lost his first two matches, which eliminated him from the tournament.

Weston went 1-2 at the tournament. He lost his first match but came back and won his second match. Weston's third match was a big match for him. If he won it, he would place but if he lost, he would be eliminated. Unfortunately Weston lost his third match.

Both Jake and Weston have another chance to go back to State and place, since Jake is a junior and Weston is a sophomore.

"Going down to State was a great experience! I got two more years to do work," said State qualifier Weston Shaw.

Photos by Jim Gale



Above: The senior girl basketball players pose for a picture. Emily Banwart, Jeni Zeller, Jade Simpson, and Katlyn Loeschen.

Editorials

3

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Horse riding safety

Kuleen Parsons

Well, it's the time of year when people are getting anxious to ride their horses, but you have to keep in mind that because of the weather, your horse may be a little on the frisky side compared to their normal attitude!

The number one thing that you should be doing to keep yourself safe is wearing an approved helmet. Helmets may make you feel dumb, but in the case when you can seriously get hurt, it is very useful and you will regret not wearing one!

No matter what horse you are riding, you must keep in mind safety!

Every horse can act up and may get you injured, so never trust a horse completely, always be prepared. If you are just riding at home or out somewhere else, never wear baggy clothes that can get hung up and make sure your equipment is ready to go.

Your boots are also a very important accessory and having boots that have a thick heel is a good thing, you need to prevent getting stuck in the stirrup. Your boots need to fit you correctly and all your riding equipment needs to fit your horse correctly so your horse can be happy. If your equipment

is hurting your horse, then that can also make them act up.

Getting hung up in the stirrup is a very dangerous situation and you do not want to wedge your foot all the way in the stirrup. You should only have your toes through just enough so that they can slip out easy and you don't have to worry about being drug if you do fall off. There are special stirrups you can buy that will stop your foot from getting stuck and stirrups that will break away from the saddle so you can not be drug by your horse even if your foot is stuck.

If you are trail riding, you definitely need a cell phone, first aid kit, and a buddy to ride with. It is very dangerous to ride alone, especially on a long ride that would be hard for someone to find you! Make sure you know where you are headed and that your horse is fit to handle all the obstacles.

All these tips should help keep you safe while riding your horse! Horses are very unpredictable, young or old! So have a fun time riding your horse and wear a helmet!

Safe House

Dylan Cink

Like action packed movies? If so, *Safe House* is the movie for you. Ryan Reynolds and Denzel Washington star in this thrilling movie.

The main story behind it is that Denzel Washington, who plays Tobin Frost, is an ex-CIA member who will do anything and everything to ruin the CIA with the secrets he knows about them. That is how he makes his living and is also on the Most Wanted list. Ryan Reynolds, who plays Matt Weston, is a CIA safe housekeeper in South Africa. His life is very boring at the

safe house because nobody is ever kept to be safe there. Frost gets captured by the CIA and is sent to Weston's safe house for questioning, but many other people are out to get Frost so the place gets invaded and Weston ends up watching Frost.

This movie has many twists and turns behind it and always makes you keep your eyes peeled. With a rating of three stars out of five, this movie is rated R and can currently be viewed at the State 5 Theatre in Algona.

Spies and their lies

Sawyer Brandt

Burn Notice is a great show if you like action, corruption, or spies. Jefferey Donovan stars as Michael Westen, who formerly worked for the United States government. Westen was "burnt." Getting burnt by the government basically means they take all of your information, money, identity, and anything you own. They drop you off in whatever city they decide, and you have to figure it out from there.

The thing about Mi-

chael Westen is that the government had no reason to "burn" him. He was set up by another spy.

This TV series is about Westen trying to find whoever burned him, as well as random "spy" jobs around the city of Miami.

The show has 5 seasons and you can catch it on FOX. Senior Bryce Hoffman says, "*Burn Notice*? That show rocks!"

Representing Algona well!

Taylor Setzer

Two groups from the AHS speech team traveled to Ames to take part in the All-State competition on Saturday, February 18th. The reader's theater and one act play groups received All-State nominations at the State level competition. One act got a non-performing nomination and reader's theater received a performing nomination.

To receive an All-State nomination, you have to be nominated by two of the three judges at State. Both of the groups got nominated by all three of their judges. Reader's theater was one of 12 other reader's theater performances chosen from the state. One act was one of 20 other performances chosen for an All-State nomination.

The reader's theater did a great job performing on Saturday. Out of the twelve performing groups, only one would receive a banner or award. Although they did not receive any awards that day, they still had a great accomplishment of performing at an All-State level. Senior Dan Haack was part of the one act play who went down to watch All-

state. When asked about the day he said, "It was a great experience and I had a lot of fun!"

Next up for the AHS speech department is individual speech. The first competition for the group is Saturday, February 25th.



Payton un-LUCK-y

Vandy

It's the end of the NFL season, but one thing is on everyone's mind. Payton vs Indianapolis. At the start of the 2011 NFL season, Payton Manning started his recovery from neck surgery. He watched as his team went from a Super Bowl contender to just another NFL bust. As the team effort and playing ability diminished, so did the hopes of Manning returning. Jim Irsay, owner of the Colts, publicly announced intentions to find the next quarterback of the Colts, much to the chagrin

of Manning's fans and most anybody in Indy. Manning was willing to accept that statement, until now.

The soon to be 36 year old feels he still has much more left in the tank and is ready to give everything he has to the Colts, or another team. Teams who have stated interest include the Dolphins, Redskins, and Jets. The issue was further heated when Jim Irsay announced on Tuesday, February 14th, that the team will welcome Manning back, only if he takes a massive

pay cut. The quarterback is set to make 28 million dollars just in bonuses and \$90 million overall for the next four seasons.

In an update to the saga, Manning was believed to have only have undergone three neck surgeries in 2011. This report is false and now it has been revealed he had a fourth surgery done. Manning also tried to get into the last two games of the year to help his team in red-zone, the touchdown area, play. In a practice, Manning threw well but owner Jim Irsay

was not impressed. Manning was then put on the disabled list for the rest of 2011.

All this comes down to one day, March 8th. That is the day where either Payton gets his money and a return to the Colts or Indianapolis will be in turmoil after losing Manning. Of course Manning could be gone before then. Either way, right now the only thing certain about Payton Manning is nothing is for sure.

School News

5

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Valentine's Day

Megan Crosser

Valentine's Day was last Tuesday, February 14th, and this year at AHS you could buy your Valentine a cookie for a dollar and your valentine received the cookie during his or her homeroom. Each cookie was sent with a note and there was a total number of 318 cookies sold. Cookies went to the high school, middle school, and Garrigan. The cookies were donated by Doreen Behnkendorf.

AHS also participated in giving carnations to the residents at the Good Samaritan Society and Algona Manor Care Center. "I love

seeing old people smile," said Alyssa Zwiefel. Student Senate bought carnations and the Leadership class joined them in delivering them. Each carnation had a little Valentine note on it made by the English 9 class.

Most of the women received chocolates and flowers for Valentine's, while most of the men received cards and other miscellaneous items. Many couples went on dates and to see the movie *The Vow* in theaters. Valentine's is a day to show love to the ones who mean the most to you.



Above: Josh Thilges and Brie Walker enjoy their Valentine cookies.

State, here we come!

Janet Hofmann

In Forest City on February 4th, Algona middle and high school students participated in the North District Special Olympic Basketball Skills competition.

At the middle school level, Nate Doidge placed first and Taylor Steeburg placed third. Qualifying as first place winners in the high school division, Amy Kaiser and Jacob Hutchison

will be participating in the State competition in Iowa City on March 9 and 10.

Jacob Hutchison said, "I'm so excited!" when asked about the up-coming competition. Be sure to wish Amy and Jacob good luck when you see them!



Above: Jade Simpson helps deliver carnations and Valentine's to nursing home residents.



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He's back!

Vandy

After a year long absence from the NFL, Randall Moss has come back home! The 35 year old Marshall college alum returns to the NFL after a disappointing 2010 season. In that season, Moss played for three teams, had diminished playing time, and had low numbers overall. Moss took a year off from the fast paced game and now has stated he is ready to roll once again.

His agent has stated numerous teams have vied for Moss's services. These

teams hope Moss can play to the level he once was known for. Moss currently ranks 2nd for all-time receptions and looks to edge closer to that.

Could Moss return to his original team, the Minnesota Vikings? Maybe the New England Patriots have unfinished writing with Moss? Or, could some other team give interest in Moss? No matter where he goes, he will be the talk of the free agency this off season. Come on, it's Randy Moss!

Read a Million Minutes

Jeremy Black

The months of February and March is celebrated as "Reading Months" all across the country. As of February 15, the elementary schools are celebrating "Read a Million Minutes." Bryant Elementary school is asking for volunteers like parents, grandparents, or friends, to go read to the students.

If you are interested in being a guest reader, let the school know a date that would work for you. You

can read from February 15 to March 7. If you want to read, plan on a 10 to 15 minute book. If you don't have a favorite book, they can provide you with one from the classroom. If you know a student from the school and you decide to read, they ask that you send in five clues about yourself that way the child who knows you can guess on who's reading.

Take some time to read for "Read a Million Minutes."

Cinco de Mayo

Sam Curtis

Everyone in Algona has heard of the local Mexican restaurant Cinco de Mayo. Commonly referred to as "Cinco," this restaurant took the place of the Sports Page bar and grill around 5 years ago and has

been extremely successful since. Part of Cinco being successful is all the redecorating they did to give the place a Mexican feel to it, and they also have very fast service. They are also reasonably priced. It is open til

Mr. Connor

Katie Riley

Mr. Connor was born in Carroll, Iowa, and grew up in the town of Glidden, Iowa. Mr. Connor attended the University of Iowa and received a bachelor's degree in Education. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he then went to Southwest Minnesota State to receive his master's degree in Educational Leadership.

Mr. Connor has been teaching for thirty-one years. He has been a teacher in one other town, which was Fairfax, Minnesota, for two years. He has been teaching in the Algona Community School District for twenty-nine years.

Mr. Connor's favor-

ite saying or quote is: "I love teaching students and seeing my students succeed!" Mr. Connor said that he chose to become a teacher because he really enjoys sharing his hobbies with others and likes to help people.

Mr. Connor has a wife named Pat and three children named Brett, Megan, and Justin. Some of his hobbies are working on stain glass projects, doing things with metal, and lately he likes to mess around with his iPhone.

The next time you see Mr. Connor around either the high school or middle school be sure to say, "Hi!"



10 o'clock, and is located at 224 Norwood Drive.

Cinco de Mayo has everything from the classic Mexican food to American food like cheeseburgers and chicken sandwiches. A popular dish at Cinco is the Pollo

Loco, which is Mexican rice, chicken, and cheese sauce. They also make delicious tacos, enchiladas, and fajitas. Next time you are looking for a place to eat around Algona, Cinco de Mayo would be a great place to try.